

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
PUBLIC HEARING
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 7, 2019 7:00 p.m.**

Ordinance - Amending Parking Restrictions

President Cantor: Calling the 7 pm Public Hearing to order. If anybody is here for TP&Z it is in room 400. Just as ...okay. This is a Public Hearing, ordinance amending parking restrictions. Roll call Ms. Labrot.

Present: Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Fay, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd and Williams

President Cantor: Thank you Ms. Labrot. Let's start with the presentation from the Town.

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor. Good evening everyone. I'll invite our Director of Community Development, Mark McGovern, to come forward and make a presentation. Welcome Mark.

Mr. McGovern: Good evening. I am Mark McGovern, Community Development Director. As many of you know, we started working with the neighbors who are here tonight in the neighborhood known as West of Center, as we call it. The area of Arapahoe and Woodrow Four Mile, Ellsworth, Lower LaSalle. Back in 2016, when there was an ordinance that was submitted to the council related to density in the Center which was ultimately withdrawn. We were tasked with working with the neighbors on an initiative. They worked with us very closely for many months on an outreach campaign that resulted in some guiding principles for the Center. One of those principles was to manage traffic and parking to reduce impact on the surrounding neighborhoods of the Center. That led ultimately to our incentive zoning ordinance and when that was completed the neighborhood asked the town to continue working with the neighborhood on other issues beyond that of the zoning regulations and some of the things that are impacting their neighborhoods and in particular on street parking and late night parking and so fast forward to 2018 now we began working with the neighbors and we had a bit of a negotiation over time, a lot of compromise in terms of what we thought could work for them, what they were seeking as a means of reducing some of the negative impact the late night parking and that late night parking was generally combination of employee parking as well as patron parking. What we settled on were two major recommendations; one of which can be implemented through the Town Manager as legal traffic authority but the other required an ordinance, which is what you have before you tonight. The material that was discussed both at the Community Planning Committee and the Public Safety Committee was included in your Council package and has some maps that show where the existing conditions were as well as what is being proposed as the two major initiatives of this project. One would be eliminating on street parking on certain blocks all together and you have a map showing some ready areas on Woodrow, Ellsworth, LaSalle, and Pelham, which parking would only be allowed on one side of the street. On the other side of the street, it is recommended that parking be prohibited at starting 11:00 and we presented this to CPPS in May and it was at that point that the corporation council realized that we would need an ordinance to provide the authority to the legal traffic authority to implement the other aspect of our proposal. In looking at that, it was also realized that the existing omit process for the police to allow

parking after 2 am was never included in the town code. The proposal before you addresses the issue of no parking after 11:00 on a street designated by the local traffic authority. Our feeling is this is a good first step in addressing issues that were brought to the town by this neighborhood and we are looking at it as a pilot of sorts and we are hopeful that it will work. We have reason to believe that it will be helpful. I think you will hear from the residents tonight about that and we also realized that once the ordinance, if the ordinance is approved, the Town Manager would have the authority to make tweaks as needed so we can see what works, what does not, and if we have some stumbles we can rectify that. We also have a number of neighborhoods also looking at this very closely because they are interested in the same thing. That is mainly some of the parallel streets north of Bridge Road. We have an opportunity, if this works in this limited area, to determine on a case by case basis working with residents whether or not it's an option for them as well.

Mr. Hart: Mark, Could you cover the business outreach that we conducted as well as our research with the main street organization.

Mr. McGovern: Yes. If Kristen Gorski is here, our economics development specialist. She went door to door on both LaSalle and Farmington Avenue and spoke with the management in almost every shop or restaurant on those two streets that potentially have either employees or customers parking in the neighborhood and she got a lot of feedback. It took quite a lot of time to go through that over probably a 2-1/2 to 3-week period. She heard some pros and cons. She heard some like it, some didn't. We heard from many shop and restaurant owners. They don't want to manage parking for their employees. They just assume it sort of work out on its own. It was also an opportunity for Kristin to remind them of the incentive parking program that was established for employees, discounted parking at Town Center Garage. At that point in time, there were about 21 or 22 businesses that had taken advantage of that program. Since the outreach, another 3 have signed up and about 35 to 40 individuals have monthly passes in that garage as opposed to parking elsewhere. In terms of recerts that came up with the Public Safety Meeting. We looked at the issue from the point of view of whether or not we could identify a comparable community that has a center as vibrant as what we have in the Center, it is up against single family homes. We didn't come up with any. We contacted Connecticut Main Street to get their input and see if they thought there was a comparable downtown that we could look at. They did not have an option. We admit that this is a unique approach to what we think is a unique challenge.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. McGovern. Thank you Mr. Hart. Are there questions for Mr. McGovern or comments? Mr. Sweeney?

Councilor Sweeney: Mark, thank you for all the work you've done on this. Just some questions. With regards to surveying of the businesses, which businesses? Do we have that written down, their comments? Do we have their feedback? How do we know who didn't like it? Was it the smaller ones, the bigger ones?

Mr. McGovern: I could ask Kristen to answer that. She didn't take down the data. She didn't do a survey per se. She went in, had a conversation with the different managers and owners, provided a copy of the ordinance, and I think they provided a copy of the map and she can talk specifically and answer your questions about that.

Councilor Sweeney: Thank you.

Ms. Gorski: Good evening, Kristen Gorski, Economic Development Specialist. What Mark said, as I went into the businesses I handed out information, I talked about the proposed changes. I did not write down specifically everybody who either did or didn't have weren't in favor of the ordinance; however, some specific comments I did write down on a spreadsheet. I do have that. I think that primarily the restaurants seemed to be most affected or would be most affected by the ordinance because they have larger staff. They also perhaps aren't at the same hourly wage so they would be a little bit more affected by any changes.

Councilor Sweeney: Was the Chamber of Commerce consulted in this?

Ms. Gorski: Yes, they were. Yes, as well as the West Hartford Center Business Association.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay. Who was comprised of the community group outside of the area of town?

Mr. McGovern: It was made up of residents and staff. Staff from Planning, Zoning, Engineering, Public Works, Parking, and the Police department.

Councilor Sweeney: But not the businesses that would be affected by that?

Mr. McGovern: No.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay. Thank you.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Sweeney. Mr. Dodge?

Councilor Dodge: Thank you Madam Mayor. Just briefly as far as that outreach to the neighborhood, what was the geographic extent of that? Was it just the streets directly bordering Town Center because one concern I have looking at the current plan that you have for the restrictions would be that instead of pushing parking inward we might end up pushing it outward.

Mr. McGovern: Right.

Councilor Dodge: So that's why I am just curious how far out your outreach went in the neighborhood. Whether anybody raised that concern.

Mr. McGovern: Yes, that was a particular issue. The most recent working group was established following a larger parking meeting that reviewed some of the proposals that we were considering and so we asked for volunteers but we also did try and balance it out based on where they lived. The big question really is whether or not Woodrow is far enough west so we made sure we had at least one resident from Four Mile Drive/Road understanding that the parking could move that way. You are absolutely right. What we do want is the on street parking to go to off street lots in the district and not spread out so we looked at the timed walk, we looked at input from residents, and we acknowledge that if that were to happen it would be an example of a tweak we could make. We have the same issue going south so we go on certain blocks on Woodrow but not all the way down to the boulevard for instance. It was kind of an area based on where we are seeing cars already because we were doing a count, Parking was doing counts on the different times of the evening over the course of several months as well as first-hand experience from the residents.

Councilor Dodge: I think obviously the impetus of this is the issues regarding West Hartford Center and I think you described it as kind of a pilot program. There are other streets that might

be Brace Road. Are there other neighborhoods in town that have expressed any interest in this because it would apply town wide, correct?

Mr. McGovern: Well, no it wouldn't apply town wide. It would only apply on designated streets, designated by the Town Manager.

Councilor Dodge: I guess what I mean is the Town Manager could do it anywhere in town.

Mr. McGovern: Correct. So the only other, well there are two areas that come to mind. One is, as I mentioned, Clifford Ardmore, just north of Base Road. There have been a number of residents contacted. We talked to them about where we are in the process and I would expect that they are going to be interested in at least evaluating something similar. The other I'd say is Park Road. That is a little bit of a different challenge though because we don't have off street parking on Park Road, but historically commercial district parking has gone north and south of Park Road in different areas and we do get complaints about resident/patron parking on those streets.

Councilor Dodge: If we did expand this to another neighborhood, say we expand to Elmwood or Park Road or something, would you imagine...I mean, there is no provision in the current statute or ordinance as it's drafted for say notice or an outreach to the neighborhood, how would you envision that happening? Would there be outreach to a local street where we are contemplating this?

Mr. McGovern: Absolutely. First off, I think we'd only contemplate it if there is a significant amount of people who come forward and identify a problem and that's generally the base on which we work when we are dealing with issues in the Right of Way in the traffic whether or not a stop sign or a stoplight might be needed, whether or not people want sidewalks and like that. We usually work on a sort of a formal or informal petition basis. If there is a demonstration of interest, then we would form a group similarly to what's been done in the last few years west of the Center. Absolutely. I think we would work with local stakeholders and then any decisions wouldn't come before there was significant public information meetings and opportunity to meet with any residents who would be affected. We would typically in change to the Right of Way, also send direct mail.

Councilor Dodge: I know, I imagine we will probably be hearing from some folks. Was there anybody who objected? As this outreach have...I know you mentioned some of the businesses. Where there any residents who had concerns?

Mr. McGovern: I don't think we received any concerns about the proposal as it is now. We most certainly received requests to do more, which we felt we weren't able to do. I think the best example of that was there were several residents who were interested in resident only parking and we talked with the neighborhood about the administration of that and how the town wasn't prepared to go that far. I would say that is probably the closest complaint we had was that some wanted more done.

President Cantor: Okay. Ms. Fay.

Councilor Fay: Thank you Ms. Cantor. This is great. This is a quality of life issue for our residents that we have heard about very much and I think it's terrific that you're addressing it. The spreadsheet is going to be an issue for sure as it pushes out other residential streets. I know parking is a very big concern from folks either they don't want to pay, they don't have the means to pay, and it is affecting the shop owners and other businesses that there is not enough parking or enough reasonable cost parking so was we do this, which I'm in support of the neighborhood quite frankly and I think it's, like I said, it's a quality of life issue, what can we do to help some of the businesses still continue to thrive and make assurances for the people who are working there that they have a safe, secure parking area that is accessible and I know we have the garage, which is terrific. I think that's a really good solution for now I really do, but for some of the people who carry lots of stuff it is...I hear from the businesses mostly. They call me a lot. To go all the way over to that garage it's cumbersome and it's hard for them to carry their supplies and their materials and this so what can we do to alleviate some of the business folks concerns about parking? I understand people want passes and this and that and we're not ready to address that nor can we right now due to finances, but can we do something for the business community to either assure that people can come to their shops and have parking that's not so expensive. You used to have, I forget what it was, a half an hour free or something if you parked in the lot, I don't know if that still exists, or something for the owners actually to encourage them just to be part of the Center which is very vibrant and important.

Mr. McGovern: Well, I wish John Phillips and Brook Nelson were here right now who stay on Parking, but I will just take a stab at the fact that we have had a paid parking environment in the Center for decades and those rates haven't been changed in a long time. It was contemplated recently and they haven't changed so I think that is one thing. For employees, we developed a program at a central garage. The town also has a workforce parking program for those working through Blue Back square for two garages in Blue Back. The issue is in parking is how do you have the right sort of parking for that parker and so what this tries to address is longer term parking, people who are staying 3, 4, 5 hours or perhaps an 8-hour shift and those are the sort of parkers you want in an off street environment. I do not think the issue is so much during the day when someone might park for an hour, walk into the Center and come back. The bigger issue is someone who's parking for 6 or 7 hours and coming back to their car at 2 in the morning and being loud or engaging in behavior that's doesn't meet community standards. I think we continue to work with the businesses through Kristen's outreach, trying to come up with new programs where possible, and we do our best with that but it is a difficult issues. There isn't one thing I think that we're missing that we can do that's going to be really a boon for all of the businesses.

Ms. Gorski: As it pertains to the Town Center Garage Program, so the outreach was actually really great and I actually ended up doing more businesses than just Farmington and LaSalle. I spread onto South Main as well. Although many of them had been told about this program in the past, a lot of people either it was a new owner or a new manager so it was just reiterating the fact that program existed. Many of whom thought it was the first time that they were hearing about that particular program and I think that's why in the last couple of weeks we've seen three new businesses sign up for that program. So, just continued outreach is really helpful.

President Cantor: Thank you Ms. Fay and I do want to that Ms. Gorski for her tremendous work on this. It was a long time in the making and it was a lot of hard work. Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: Thank you Madam Mayor. And to share the Mayor's sentiment, thanks Mr. McGovern, Ms. Gorski, and of course I think Mr. Dumais was involved in this as well. Balancing all of the interests is really difficult because a lot of people care and they should, but one of the things that I also thought was part of your analysis was that once it gets to be around 11:00 there is another wave of patrons to the Center area and spend the same time. By that time we also have capacity at our parking areas, including the one around Town Hall which is open to the public. Isn't that true? That's part of the thought process here?

Mr. McGovern: Absolutely. In the data collection we did, it was twofold. We counted cars on street, but we also counted spaces that are available throughout the Arapohoe lot, Farmington Lot, Brace Lot and so absolutely 10 or 11:00 there is a turnover and there are spaces available. It comes at a cost, but those are the parking spaces that are designed for those who are coming in to go to the restaurants later in the evening.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Williams. Mr. Hart, we had talked about the paid parking and the benefit to the businesses and the community with paid parking. I just want to know if you would like to review that part because that 11:00 component is important. We also, right, use that funding for ...

Mr. Hart: Yes, I'd be happy to do that Mayor and Mark if you'd like to add on, feel free. We have a paid parking system. It is important for a few key reasons. Number one, we rely on a shared parking system as opposed to allocating spaces to specific businesses. Turnover is important to us. It's important to our businesses. That requires enforcement. Enforcement comes at a cost. You can pay for it through user fees like we do. Some communities establish improvement districts where the businesses in that district will pay an additional tax that covers parking and other services. We also use the parking revenue that we take in to help maintain the Center. For example, we do a daily trash detail. Every morning, I think it starts at 6:30 or 7 am and Parking Services staff go out and do a trash sweep throughout the Center, which is very beneficial. The proceeds also help pay for planters and other infrastructure improvements that we need to make. Parking, especially on the scale that we have here, it never comes for free. Someone is going to have to pay for it somewhere and the option that West Hartford chose decades ago and still continues to work well in our view is a paid parking model. Mark, I don't know if there's anything key you wanted to add onto that based on your experience in Hartford and elsewhere.

Mr. McGovern: No. I think that's right. I think the revenue goes back into the district. The other area that is worth noting is removing all of the snow in the middle of the night so spaces are kept open that next day or shops and restaurants, I think that is critically important so there is access 12 months a year to all of the spaces. The key not mentioned is turnover. It comes down to turnover and creating an environment where shoppers and restaurant goers have expectation that they are going to find a space fairly close to where they are going to go, not necessarily in front but fairly close and fees are used to be able to spur that what we call turn at the curb.

President Cantor: Thank you. Mr. Sweeney.

Councilor Sweeney: Sorry, I guess the big thing on here that I saw is number for 11 pm. Can someone tell me how we came to the genesis of this number and where/how we came there from 2?

Mr. McGovern: I think it was a negotiation of sorts in our working group meeting and we talked about that in a couple of meetings whether or not it should be 12 or 11 and there were enough members of the neighborhood that felt strongly that 11 was most appropriate. Even acknowledging the fact that they would have guests coming to their homes that might be there past 11 and it could impact them. It really came down to a consensus of the group

Councilor Sweeney: But there wasn't a negotiation with the businesses about this time.

Mr. McGovern: No, because that wasn't our directive. Our directive from the Council based on the previous initiative was to work with the residents based on impacts from the commercial district.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay and there is no other loose ballot as 11 pm then?

Mr. McGovern: I can't say that there is. I don't know. We looked at whether or not there were similar environments to West Hartford in Connecticut and we didn't go beyond that.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay. I mean, I really like the ability for the Town to capture as much potential revenue through parking. It is very forward thinking. It is a really good thing to look at. I am a little troubled with a ban and I'm a little troubled by the number not being a scientific number that there is no where we have seen this work. We are just settling on it based on negotiation that does not involve the business community and that's something that needs to be considered before we move on something of this magnitude and particularly the language in here I think to Mr. Dodge's point specifically allows for the Town Manager to at his own discretion, his or her own discretion, to change and move it to any part of the community which for different parts of our community we have working class folks, we have people that are on different time schedules, and specifically in and around the Center you have the people that work there that can't leave at 11 pm, they are on shift until 3. The restaurant closes at 2, but they are there until 3 to close and those are all things that we have to keep in mind. I just think that it would be great to have a little bit more input from the restaurant folks because their employees are the ones that really facing this and they are probably the ones that are impacting it and I applaud the folks that are here today and I think it's great and I understand that there is a ton of stuff that is happening in your front yard that are things you don't want to see at 1 am or 2 am, but I don't think they are going to be...I think it just needs a little more input from the business community because we are in this place where we are seeing a lot of fluctuation in our own downtown with we have a lot of movement to restaurants and that's taking up a lot of the space and real estate in West Hartford Center. I think we really need to have them at the table for this conversation just because of the amount of input that they have given to this community. It would be a little ahead of our skis if we don't have them at the table for those negotiations.

Mr. McGovern: I understand your point, but that's contrary to the directive that we received over the last three years in working with the neighbors. We could certainly go forward on that basis, but that wasn't how we were directed in the past.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay. Fair. Thank you.

President Cantor: Okay, Ms. Kerrigan

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. This is sort of an offbeat question and I applaud your efforts here to please both the residents and the businesses. That has been a challenge no doubt and our outreach is impressive and I think it's important that the residents who have houses there have some protection because we're not talking about retail with homes we're talking about drinking and the behavior that ensues because of alcohol. That's an issue. My

question is, I appreciate your efforts here it is a noble cause because I don't know how I would feel if someone was every morning drinking and stuff but anyways, at one time there were these bicyclists. The place is in the lot for these cars that are coming in at 10/11:00 at night, not in front of the residents' houses, but in a lot so they can go back at their leisure and not disturb sleeping families. What happened to those bicycles that used to bring you around? They were here for a short period and then they left because that could be really ideal.

President Cantor: It was a private pedal cab business.

Councilor Kerrigan: Okay, just to bring home people from the lots to the restaurants.

Mr. McGovern: I believe before my time in West Hartford. That was tried and ...

Councilor Kerrigan: That wasn't before your time.

Mr. McGovern: Pedal cabs, it was.

Councilor Kerrigan: No, because I was here.

Mr. McGovern: No, you're thinking...

Councilor Kerrigan: The bicyclists.

Mr. McGovern: Oh, you're thinking the cycling...

Councilor Kerrigan: Yeah, the cyclists.

Mr. McGovern: ..so that was bringing seniors who weren't able to bicycle.

Councilor Kerrigan: Hold on a second. Pat.

Mr. Alair: There were two programs. One is a program that Mark is describing where people would give rides on special tricycles really. To seniors. That's one of them. There is a second thing, at the time we implemented Blue Back sort of as an offshoot of that we drafted a very comprehensive set of regulations allowing for pedal cabs based on a couple of companies that expressed interest in trying it. We wrote a very long and comprehensive ordinance, two pedal cab companies started and lasted one season and we haven't seen them again but the ordinance is still in place in case anybody ever wants...

Councilor Kerrigan: Bring back the pedal cabs. Thank you. I appreciate that, not just for seniors but for everybody. Thank you.

President Cantor: I think we should take time out to hear from the residents before we ask any more questions. Do we have a sign-up sheet? Thank you very much.

Well, I'll do it again. I did make one, but if anyone is here for TPZ they are actually meeting in room 400. This is a Public Hearing for the Town Council Meeting. Thank you. Okay. If I pronounce your name incorrectly, I apologize. Christine Fichera. State your name and address for the record and you have three minutes to speak.

Ms. Fichera: Christine Fichera. I am at 21 Arapahoe Road. There are many wonderful things about the neighborhood that I live in. Most notably are my amazing neighbors, many of them who are here tonight to support the parking changes on our streets that have been proposed. We all love being able to walk to just about everywhere we need to go to get a book at the library, pick up some groceries, catch a movie, and enjoy lots of great food while still being part of a tight knit caring community. On the flip side, our Center neighborhood has been dealing with steadily increasing traffic, practically impassable streets caused by bumper to bumper parked cars, illegally parked cars, getting blocked into our driveways by parked cars, and not to mention a car smashing into a utility pole or we have even had a car that drove through a fence, across the

front yard, up a flight of stairs, and onto the front porch of one of our neighbors. As a neighborhood, we all collectively hold our breath that these somewhat minor accidents will be the worst of what we see. Along with all of these parked cars come their drivers after a night at the bars and clubs at the Center they return to the cars, often times drunk and this leads to other problems; trespassing, vandalism, fighting, empty alcohol containers, and other trash strewn about, vomit on the sidewalks, and on two other occasions that I have witnessed lewd acts happening in parked cars. A little over three years ago we began voicing these growing concerns to the Town Council. In response, they formed the Center Parking Committee and also the Neighborhood Parking Group. I am so grateful that they did and I am very happy that I was able to be part of both of these groups and to be given the opportunity to work in collaboration with town employees and other neighbors over a long period of time to find parking solutions that begin to protect neighborhoods while providing sufficient parking to business patrons. I grew up in the house that I live in now. Back then, the Center was used almost exclusively during the day. By 5:30 I could and did roller skate down the middle of my street. That was a long time ago and the parking signs in our neighborhood are even older than that. They are from an entirely different era when parking regulations were established for an entirely different business center. Before there was significant late night entertainment and drinking in the Center. I support the recommendations that came out of the Center Parking Committee. There is plenty of parking available directly in the Center, especially later in the evening after 10 pm. Restricting parking on a few residential streets will not result in shortage of parking for the patrons of the shops, restaurants, and bars but it will help to make our neighborhoods a safer, saner place to live in and on another upside it will send more parking revenue to the town. Thank you.

President Cantor: Thank you Christine. Rebecca London and after that is David Mann. If you haven't signed up, you're welcome to come and speak then.

Ms. London: Rebecca London, I live at 91 Four Mile Road. To your point Mr. Dodge, I am actually just outside of the radius of the proposed changes. I was very much happy to be a part of this process and I support, while I do have concerns that we might see these sorts of problems begin to extend past this area, I am very happy to support this knowing that it sets a precedent that the citizens of the neighborhood that borders the Center are listened to and involved in the process and that should the concerns spread that there is an avenue for it to be addressed. I am not quite as eloquently prepared as Christine. What I would add to her remarks, all of which I agree with and support, is that this was a very good process. In the time that I have lived walking distance to the Center, I have witnessed phenomenal change. Not as much as Christine has witnessed, but still an incredible amount of growth and any time we are part of a community, any time there is growth like this, which we all support, we live in the Center because we want what is here. At the same time, there must be an evaluation system where we continue to talk and discourse and look at what the changes are bringing, what the impacts are, and how we can meet everyone's needs. Again, I would say this has been a very good process. It has been one that hasn't involved business owners, it has been more involved residents, there is no way to meet 100% of everyone's needs. That is just not the standard. The standard is to try to figure out what everyone's needs are and then to implement ways that as many needs as possible can be met. This meets the needs of the Center, businesses and employees, and really it's not the employees as much it's the people that was walking through our neighborhood at 2:00 in the morning inebriated and behaving badly. Those people can pay for parking in the Center that is ample and provided for them. It is not impacting business if they can go to Barcelona and rack up a \$200 bar bill, they can pay \$5 for parking in a town lot that then benefits our entire

community. To your point Mr. Sweeney about business, of course I support the businesses in the Center, it's why I live here. Their needs can be met while at the same time meeting the needs of the people that have to live in the houses and want to live in the houses that backup against the Center. Again, I am that person that lives right on the border of the proposed blocks that we're talking about. I think it speaks again to the process that I was included and I would just say once again that a lot of time and energy went into this and I think this is a compromise that everybody can live with and that sets a precedence for meeting future needs as they arise.

President Cantor: Thank you Rebecca. Next person is David Mann.

Mr. Mann: Hi, my name is David Mann. I live on 24 Woodrow and I am this close to just saying I agree with what they said and just go back to my chair, which my wife would celebrate, but I'll be quick and if I'm going long she'll play the academy music to get me off the stage here, but I echo everything with what they said and I think they really did end up covering the bases. The only points I want to emphasize additionally are that there are other members on the committee the folks at Benjamin Albert, other members that agree with this ordinance. I support this ordinance and so in a way I've been a part of some of these other meetings where it's a little more exciting because there's a little more debate. This one was like no. We ended up, it took a while. Everyone talked about it, it took a couple of years. It was an involved process and I think Mark noted there were folks from the Police, Engineering, Public Works. There was dialogue with the business community. This was a thoughtful process. It took some time and negotiation and also I like what Mark said was this is a first step. It's not the final answer necessarily, it's a first step. It's just a section near the Center. We'll learn from it. We'll talk about it and so I think that's what got everyone comfortable, people who had grand ideas for other things, we just said this is a nice first step and the thought process between 11 pm is a focus point as far as changing that parking time. Part of the rationale was, as we were mentioning earlier, it's that restaurant/bar breakpoint and so I think it was definitely that bar person at a younger age, now I'm on the other side of 11:00 and so we just kind of looked around the room and said that's kind of when that time usually is and I love the analogy of the \$200 bar bill by the way, or \$205 bar bill, but that's was sort of the thought behind it and again if it takes if it is 11:05 and that's when the person that employee or whomever is coming over from the restaurant non one is going to get in harm's way there. There was that. I though excellent point on capacity. I don't think anyone walks around the Center of West Hartford and says if only we could have more parking buildings here. In some ways we feel like there are better uses of some of our existing parking spaces that we have. I think it's good to know that the data supports that there is capacity to support those folks that are late at night and need to have somewhere...and I like the fact that it's close to the Center, well lit, safe. So that's, again, we want to be mindful of all parties here. Also, I want to note as far as Woodrow resident, some of the reasons why we're here are when you get to that point where there are cars on both sides of the road and you're going down Woodrow Street, we've had...I've seen instances where we have seen ambulances trying to get down the street, unfortunately, and they can't. That's not good and I've seen accidents. I've seen people back in and so other cars just trying to get out and they shared some stories as well. It's just the safety thing is real. I actually have a video clip from my security camera of a pickup truck driving over another car at 2 in the morning and they went for it. I actually was shocked at the tenacity, but it was reckless and bad and that wasn't the employee of the restaurant. That was a late night person who had too much. Anyway, we support it. A lot of folks support it. Appreciate your time and by the way, one more positive Todd is awesome and Mark is great to work with as well. It was a very collaborative process and last but not least we've already seen

action taken from this. At the end of Woodrow that cuts over to Farmington, they've brought in the space there so there is one less spot but you can see better now and as one of the committee members said, he no longer has to tell his kids hold on when he goes and pulls out to Farmington. That's a nice safety improvement. Thanks for your time.

President Cantor: Thank you David. Is there anybody else who like to speak to this Public Hearing that has not had an opportunity to do so? Okay, and just another announcement, TPZ is upstairs if anybody is here for TPZ and Todd is also upstairs. He would be here. Okay, any other comments from Council? No. Questions? Alright. Well, if nobody else wants to speak then we will close the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

/cv

DRAFT

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019**

President Cantor: I am calling the 7:30 Town Council Meeting. We will start with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call Ms. Labrot.

Present: Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Fay, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd and Williams

President Cantor: I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules and present two proclamations which was made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye

President Cantor: Those opposed? Motion carries. Alright. We will start with Fire Prevention Safety. This is our Assistant Fire Chief Sinsigalli and going to read the proclamation that we do for this week. Whereas US Fire Departments responded to 357,000 home fires in 2017, according to the National Fire Protection Association, and home fires resulted in 2637 civilian deaths in 2017 representing the majority 77% of all US fire deaths and whereas the town of West Hartford's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. Whereas the 2019 Fire Prevention Week being plan and practice your escape effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of developing a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it twice a year and whereas a home fire escape plan provides the skill set and know how to quickly and safely escape a home fire situation and whereas home fire escape plans should be developed all members of the household and practiced twice a year to ensure that everyone in the household knows what to do in a real fire situation and whereas West Hartford's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes. Now therefore be it proclaimed that on behalf of the Town Council and the Residents of West Hartford I, Mayor Shari Cantor, do hereby proclaim October 6 thru 12 as Fire Prevention Week in the Town of West Hartford and urge all residents to develop a home fire escape plan and participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of West Hartford's Fire and Emergency Services during Fire Prevention Week 2019, and I would love for you to say a few words.

Assistant Chief Sinsigalli: First of all, I would like to thank Mayor Cantor, the entire Council, and the Public Safety Committee for the support that they've given the Fire Department throughout the years. We really are appreciative of the support that you give and also, you know, when I first got in the fire service in 1972 the fire deaths were more than 13,000 a year nationwide so to be in a spot where we are down to 3000, 3400 a year speaks well of our public...of the nation's fire service public education efforts and also the receptiveness of our citizens and our residents and in West Hartford we are fortunate enough to have residents and citizens who are very careful with their property, very mindful of the maintenance and smoke alarms and fire safety so we are, you know, fortunate to have a very low fire loss rate so we hope that with continued public education, continued support from the residents and the Council we will be able to maintain that same level of safety that we enjoy today. Thank you.

President Cantor: Thank you. The second proclamation, hello Helen, our Director of Human Leisure Services. Helen Rubino-Turco you just heard from. Whereas parks are essential to the physical, social, environmental, and economic health of a community, whereas the National Park Trust for Public Land in conjunction with the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Urban Land Institute are leading a nationwide movement to ensure that there is a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person in every neighborhood in every city across America. Whereas over 220 mayors, including West Hartford's mayor, Shari Cantor, have come together to support the 10-minute walk campaign and are increasing equitable park access and equality through local policy changes, master planning efforts, and appropriate funding and whereas special activities have been held this spring, summer, and fall in the Town of West Hartford in support of the 10-minute walk initiative and whereas Thursday, October 10, 2019, is National 10-Minute Walk Day and whereas the ceremony to celebrate the Town of West Hartford's participation in the 10-minute walk will be held on Thursday, 10-10-2019 at 10 am at West Hartford Town Hall followed by a ceremonial tree planting at the Trout Brook Trail, a linear Park. Now therefore be it proclaimed that on behalf of the Town Council and the Residents of West Hartford I, Mayor Shari Cantor, do hereby proclaim Thursday, October 10, 2019, as the 10-Minute Walk Day in West Hartford and Helen I am sure will have a few more words for you. Thank you.

Ms. Rubino-Turco: Thank you Shari. Eighty percent of West Hartford residents live within a 10-minute walk of a public park or playground, which is a phenomenal number for an inner suburb, inner ring suburb of a city, but we wanted to spend this year focused on trying to get people from their couch to the park that is a 10-minute walk away. We did a number of initiatives, but the main one encapsulated numerous of our activities and it's called Parks Bingo and it runs until Halloween so you still have time to play Parks Bingo and for every bingo that you get, you get entered into a drawing for a free pair of running shoes or walking shoes from Fleet Feet. I am very pleased that and more information is on Leisure Services website or through our department, any of our facilities. I am very pleased to have our Mayor embrace this initiative. Last year we did not do very much, but what we did was updated the mapping and we got ourselves organized, but this year we really launched a number of activities that involve not just leisure services and our parks department but also Public Works, the library, as well as local businesses like Fleet Feet and local non-profits like Friends of Fernridge Park or the West Hartford Garden Club. It has really been a delightful joint effort to support the 10-minute walk initiative. Thank you.

President Cantor: Okay. Back to the agenda. We will go to number two. Ms. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: ...19 and the Public Hearing Minutes application 10-60 Starkel Road.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. We will check and see if people are signing up for public forum. The signup sheet is blank. Is there anybody that would like to speak to something on the agenda that is not a subject of a public hearing? Okay. We have nothing on consent so number 5. Ms. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move adoption of the ordinance amending parking regulations, I mean restrictions. Sorry. Restrictions.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. Just do a brief summary Mr. Hart and then I think there are a couple further questions for you.

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor. As we discussed in the Public Hearing, the proposed coordinates are an outgrowth of a charge that the Council gave to staff and our residents back in 2016 and they have been working diligently, diligently since that time. Under the proposed ordinance, there are two main components here. One, it would clarify that the Town has the authority to limit parking to certain sides of the street and that secondly, we would have the ability, I would have the ability as the Traffic Authority to restrict parking on certain streets to prohibit parking from 11 pm to 5 am. The standard rule throughout town at present is the restriction runs from 2 am to 5 am and then lastly, some years ago, we implemented an omit procedure that is administered by the Police Department and that would allow someone to make a special request to gain an exception to the rule on a case by case basis within a particular period of time. That process, that program was never officially allowed by ordinance so this ordinance would fix that and clarify the omit system as well.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart, and this ordinance you had stated that one of the things that is specific to this area, I think there is some concern that putting in this 11 pm timeframe would make this apply or could apply to everything, every area in the town. I think, Mr. Sweeney, would you like to elaborate on your question?

Councilor Sweeney: The omit?

President Cantor: The omit and the fact of limiting the parking that would apply to the full town. I am a little, actually...

Councilor Sweeney: For sure, we can just go on...I'll start. To answer to that part, For the omit process, what I am seeing here is you're just let me just make sure I'm following you here, you're just providing the ability for anyone to call in based on whether or not they are an owner or occupants or renter, whoever becomes unavailable to them or their guest is in an unavoidable circumstance. We are not going to get into the weeds with that because I do know that has become something that people have been when they call the Police that has been asked of them is whether it is an unavoidable circumstance.

Mr. Hart: So that is correct. We are not looking to change the current system. We are looking to essentially legalize the current system and I want to correct one misstatement that I made earlier. I said that this ordinance would give us the authority to limit parking to certain sides of the street. Actually, that authority already exists. This ordinance would not establish that. It already exists.

President Cantor: Thank you. Alright. Mr. Sweeney, did you have another question?

Councilor Sweeney: On the previous section, yes.

President Cantor: Go ahead.

Councilor Sweeney: I do. Sorry. Let me just pull that up. So, I really appreciate the community's input on this. I think it is a very important issue in regards to public safety, having the respect of your front yard. I have seen it. I used to live in the area so I get it. I just, the wording of this troubles me from a few places. One, the 11 pm number. I mean it was basically said here today there was no scientific reason for why we are choosing 11 pm, it's just what we settled on. I have trouble with that because I don't know any other community that is doing that

when we have this huge downtown area that is really working well for us. I know that's not necessarily working well for you guys in regards to what's going on in your front lawn, but in regards to interfering with that I do just want to understand why we would be doing it. I just have not seen anything. When I asked where at the Public Safety meeting, I have not been provided anything for that so that is a little troubling to me. I think the other piece that I have an issue is the way this is written it looks as if and it reads as if and please stop me if I'm wrong, but this basically allows for you to do this in any neighborhood in the town and I don't think that's what the point of the group that was set up was to address the circumstances surrounding the Center, but this language allows for you to do this in any community and West Hartford is a diverse community in the sense that we have people that work second and third shifts, of which they need to address...that needs to be dealt with. We have areas that have multifamily homes where people do push up against that 2 am clock and so I would not want to see that extended to those places and I just find that the language is a little bit too broad for my liking on that sense. I would love to see also potentially if the 11 pm number isn't a scientific number, I just see the end of the day being a better number than 11 pm. I would love to offer an amendment on that to just move it from 11 to 12 in twofold and if there's a way to make this a little bit less broad in the sense of maybe designating this exact streets because as to the point that you made it, we want to just talk about this portion of the town and then potentially look and see if this is helping and working. I think the other thing that was troubling in the testimony I heard today was there isn't a real policy outcome that we're looking for here. It wasn't a very specific one. I understand the well-being of people and feeling the safety in their homes, but a specific outcome to see if this is working would be great to see or have something that we're looking at that is...because when we do public policy I mean I've seen...you expect to see some sort of desired outcome or a change of this magnitude. I don't know if there's a way to draft this to make it to designate this area. That's something I'd love to see. I throw that over to core council and Town Manager.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Sweeney. Thank you Mr. Hart. Go ahead.

Mr. Hart: Let me start off. I may not have had everything that you asked. If I missed something, could you please follow-up and then Mr. Alair can add on, if he so chooses. The selection of the 11 pm hour, as we talked about during the Public Hearing, is there an exact scientific reason for that, no. I think it emerged from the conversation that that was the conversion if you will from the restaurant crowd to the late night crowd so thinking that 11 pm might be reasonable for most folks. The second point I wanted to emphasize we talked about how we rely on a shared parking model and we do have capacity available for employees and patrons, especially late night. We have that off-street capacity available. It's not as though the parking on these neighborhood streets is essential for the uses in the Center at that hour of the day. How would we measure success? I think we would look to see to what extent our nuisance complaints have fallen and declined. I think that would be one statistic. Secondly, I would look to see to what extent there is an uptick in the sponsored parking programs that we provide for employees. I think we already talked about how our outreach that we have conducted to date we've got some additional subscribers because of that. That is a good thing. That is a safe place for those folks to park. Do you have the discretion to amend this on the floor? Certainly. You talked about restricting it to certain neighborhoods in town. Mr. Alair can disagree with me if he thinks necessary but I believe you would have that ability. I don't think it's necessarily needed at this point in time. As Traffic Authority under State Statute the Traffic Authority in any town has considerable discretion. Our practice here though is that we only make changes whether they

are improvements to a stop sign, stop light, what have you. We only do that on the basis of analysis or based on a neighborhood concern.

Councilor Sweeney: To that rationale, if we are doing this based off of input by this group that has put a lot of time and effort into this and it is supposed to be focused on this one specific area, why does the language reflect a town-wide policy? I mean, that's what this does.

Mr. Hart: Again, based on the testimony that was presented earlier, if this is successful for this particular neighborhood, if for example if we see a reduction in the number of nuisance complaints we receive, if it is successful arguably it's something we would like to...we could try in other neighborhoods. You talked about neighborhoods that host a number of multifamily units. I think we would be somewhat low to implement something like this in those neighborhoods where they are relying ...

Councilor Sweeney: To that point, those neighborhoods are two or three streets away.

Mr. Hart: But they are not immediately adjacent. These are primarily single family home neighborhoods.

Councilor Sweeney: Okay. I mean, in regards to the Center there are immediately adjacent neighborhoods that are two to three family homes that are within the area. They are actually probably closer than Four Mile Road to the Center. I think we are in that kind of space. I mean, this specific, what has been asked for by this group and I totally understand where they are coming from that makes sense to me. If we can call out specifically what they are asking for in as Mr. McGovern said, "a pilot program" sort of thing, then I think that's what we should be looking at because that's what we asked for. We didn't ask for a town-wide ordinance here. I would love to see if there's a way we can maybe just have a recess and look at some sort of language that can address that. I just think that's more of what we were asking that was asked of this committee, not a town-wide ordinance change to impact the entire town if designated by the town manager. I think that's what we're looking at and I again appreciate everyone's work on here it's just this does not...I don't like the idea of us then designating power, no offense to you it may be somebody else, to change that. I think that's kind of where our...the Council comes in. It's our responsibility to ...it's the role that we have. I would love to see if we could play around with some language. I would, you know, I would be amenable to keeping the time if we could keep it to a location but there are just a couple of things that I think we could easily iron out on this before we implement at town-wide policy and then I think in regards to the second paragraph in regards to unavoidable circumstances, I would just like to remove the word "unavoidable" and just put it into circumstances since at that point we are designating some sort of judgement call at that point to... at that point they have to call into the police right? Again, and I don't want this to be looked at as not appreciative of what folks have done today, I just think we need to look at this. If it is truly a pilot program and what the initial goal was to address this community's concerns, let's address their concerns and let's work on something that does that and not do a town-wide policy before we know the outcomes of this said "pilot" program that we were going to look at today. I think it's a great idea to look at and explore, but it's not something that I'm comfortable with implementing on a town-wide policy because, as I said earlier, we have such a diverse community in regards to how people work, how they get there, how they travel, and I think it just would impact people, could impact people in person. Thank you.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Sweeney. I know Mr. Wenograd had a couple of comments and I should have ...a lot of this came out of or went through Mr. Wenograd's committee so and also Public Safety.

Councilor Wenograd: Thank you Mayor. I am in support of this ordinance, but given the objections of Councilman Sweeney raised, I think procedurally if there are amendments that want to be offered, we can either do it through... it's procedurally appropriate to offer amendments to an ordinance and have those discussed and the voted on if need be prior to talking about the whole ordinance because I don't want to jump in, I mean you've raised an issue. I don't want to sort of start back at the beginning of support for the ordinance as a whole because I think we're losing the thread of the discussion if we do it that way. Unless it's better to bring it out and then have those discussions. It seems to me you start with either we start with sort of the amendments I think we would start with the initial proposal, which has been raised and seconded. I mean then if there are on the floor amendments, those would be appropriate to come sometime after.

President Cantor: That's fine. But there was a pretty fundamental I though potential change or question so I wanted Mr. Sweeney to bring that up before we...

Councilor Wenograd: Right. That makes sense. I think there was the answer to the question, but the extent of the answer isn't satisfactory then I guess and I am not sure whether again our normal course we don't usually have this complex a debate that whether we should entertain amendments first before going through the full or should we start with the sort of full thing and then sort of ...

President Cantor: Well, there are a couple other questions so let's just go through a couple of questions. I know Mr. Williams has a question and then we will see whether we move on one and then two amendments or ...Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: Thank you Madam Mayor, and Councilman Sweeney I appreciate your perspective. Tonight I disagree with it for some of the reasons you actually raised. This process has involved a lot of stakeholders and it has taken a lot of work for Mr. McGovern, Ms. Gorski, Mr. Dumais, residents, and that unto itself is a lot of work. It doesn't necessarily mean you pass something but I think one of the frustrations folks have with government sometimes is that it doesn't move, it doesn't get things done and I think there has been a lot of fact-based discussion about this particular neighborhood that has brought forth a proposal as to how to address it which includes the 11 pm number. I don't think it's necessarily arbitrary because I think it's hooked to the parking availability. When we talk about other neighborhoods be it neighborhoods that have multifamily housing or things of that nature the data on the ground is not going to be the same and so the question becomes whether or not the Council wants to give the discretion to the Town Manager to deal with those issues in other neighborhoods when it comes up or not. Do we trust the Town Manager and the staff to have the judgement and to exercise it prudently in other jurisdictions? I think that's what you're issue, you're point is getting at, or do we want to be a body that deals with parking times every time a neighborhood has an issue with it? So for me in my perspective, I would rather it be the former. I really like this ordinance myself. I think it's a very thoughtful approach to a difficult issue and I like and support the concept of giving the Town Manager the authority to deal with traffic issues as they arise throughout town because I

think our town staff being as involved in the community as it is a much better vehicle to deal with and address parking issues than we are. The problem we have is sometimes we are not able to spend the time in the community to understand and appreciate the issues the way that town staff is required to be. I do think if we spend this evening restricting the ordinance to just being in the area that is specifically identified I think the ordinance will be weaker for us. I think we can adjust the overall ordinance if the pilot program doesn't work out and I also think the same goes, my thought process for the time because if we put it to midnight or we move it forward to 10 pm we're still dealing with a measure of discretion. I support the idea that this is a pilot, see how it works, the residents, the community, the businesses, and then we can move forward from there but I would not support changing the language tonight after we have gone through this process. I think the process has gotten us to a point where we administer the proposal, see how it goes because it is a pilot, and then we either expand it, restrict it, and deal with it from that perspective. Thank you Mayor.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Williams. Mr. Dodge.

Councilor Dodge: Thank you Madam Mayor. I think I'm going to try and successfully agree with both Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Williams. I had some more concerns to Mr. Sweeney and I think if it was restricted to a neighborhood this would be sort of a no brainer for me. I do share his concern that this is giving the Town Manager the authority to do this on a town-wide basis, but that's not to say that I think we as a council should be involved in this on a town-wide basis. I guess that my concern comes down more to whether my concern would be when we look at the immediate problem that we're facing, we had a very nice map that Mr. McGovern prepared for us. We have a lot of certainty in terms of immediately I think we have predictability in terms of how Mr. Hart is going to proceed, at least with regard to West Hartford Center and the residents and West Hartford Center, the business owners, have obviously been very, very involved in this discussion and I don't have any concerns that there has not been notice to people this might be coming with regard to West Hartford Center. My concern doesn't come down to whether we should be involved town-wide. I agree with Mr. Williams. I don't think we should. It comes down to whether when the Town Manager does this in other parts of town what kind of notice would be provided to the residents of a street where there is going to be a new parking restriction for instance. Having said that, however, I don't think at this late hour coming up with some kind of notice provision is prudent. I don't think it's something that we should be doing at the table and so it's something I hope that perhaps we could look at going forward. We can always come back and amend the ordinance and if we find there's an instance where we think maybe notice is appropriate or we want to put some kind of procedure in place so that residents on a street that might be affected by a future restriction could be informed of that then maybe that would be appropriate. I think tonight it's not necessary because hopefully this isn't going to expand particularly quickly. I, maybe not publically, but privately sort of advocated the repeal of the 2 am town-wide parking ban and I would actually I think repealing it paired with something like this makes a lot of sense because I think in most parts of the town there is really no reason to have a 2 am ban and I don't think there are many other suburban communities that have a 2 am ban. I hope at some future time that we can perhaps look at that, especially having something like this on the books might give us a little bit more comfort examining that issue. As far as the concerns about time, I think moving back the hour from 11:00 to 12:00 is almost more arbitrary than 11:00 than providing more discretion to the Town Manager. If anything, I would perhaps consider allowing an earlier time only because I would trust the Town Manager as he went through the process with any neighborhood to use some discretion with that. I would not support

moving the hour back to 12:00. I guess to sum up my concerns on this, I do plan on voting for the ordinance. I do have a concern about if we do start using this in other parts of the time making sure that we go through the same type of process where the residents are involved in the decision making and I think that right now, you know, in my 3½ years on Council I don't think I've ever seen a situation where the town's staff didn't engage in robust outreach and so I think we have to have a certain level of trust on that but if it is something that we want to revisit at a future date, I think that's something we could consider going forward. I do, I am not sure now, I do agree with Mr. Sweeney's concerns on the omit system in terms of putting these sort of owners standards in there in terms of, you know, what's unavoidable or what does it mean to have parking that is not available. I did actually have one instance when I was in my previous neighborhood and it was before I was on Council where a police officer did not give me an omit because they didn't think the circumstances were unavoidable. I, you know, I think we should have an omit system. I think we should also explore the potential in some neighborhoods perhaps allowing resident parking on the street. I don't know. I think that other communities have systems for allowing that and I think that is something that we should explore, but I do think that as far as the omit system I mean right now the way it's drafted you can only get it for three days. I don't think somebody calling in should really be required to make much more of a showing beyond I am asking for and I live here. Those are my feelings.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Dodge. Mr. Williams your mic is on. I don't know if you're... Ms. Fay.

Councilor Fay: Thank you Mayor Cantor. I just have to refresh my memory because you guys probably know I grew up in East Hartford so I just remember when my dad when they lived in the house for 60 years we would all be home from college, we all had our cars after college, and he would have to call the police officers and say hey my kids are here, they are going to be on the street, you know the driveway is only so big, and the police department said fine and their ordinance is from 2 to 5 am, so very similar to West Hartford and it is probably more restrictions or different things in the business districts but I think we have a livable, breathable, good parking situation and ordinance. I have never personally had a problem when my driveways was paved and I had to have the cars on the street for a day or two overnight. It has been well accommodated. There were no issues and to me it is really a quality of life issue and you guys live in the Center and it's a great place to live and I think we need to have a balance between business and residences, it's a residential area for sure. Family area for sure, a lot of children. I walk around there a lot. I think there is a way to balance it. I think 11:00 is reasonable for sure and we do have parking in other places, you know, the Mayor has made accommodations with the garage that works quite well. There are lots of garages. There is lots of parking. There are lots of lots and if you want to be a little bit further now we've got the Purple bus. I mean, you could take the bus into town. I think this is reasonable. I do believe that residents deserve a quality of life regardless of where they live and I don't want to bring up a sore subject because I know it was very painful for all of us, but this is not like Los Imperios where there was a lot of things that happened in the neighborhoods as a result of unsavory activities happening late at night from a big bar or a club. I think we need to maintain our residences and, you know, keep them pristine and safe and you pay a lot to live near the Center and I am supportive of this. I know another town that has very similar restrictions. They seem to work. I have never had a problem if I had to park in the street, which is very rare, and I think that's a good thing to that you don't want cars lined up in the street overnight all the time and, you know, not be able to get safety vehicles through or ambulances or whatnot. I am in support of the public and what you

folks had to say and I like this ordinance and I think ordinances can be amended if it doesn't work and I certainly trust Mr. Hart to be able to use his discretion with his staff of where we would have to apply it down the road. You know, we have to be prepared for change in our town and growth and good growth so I can see the new park corridor turning into another sort of Center, retail/restaurant establishment, Park Row. Other places where we may have to do something, but not know but down the road so I would trust that this is flexible enough that we could implement changes if we need to.

President Cantor: Thank you Ms. Fay. Hi, do you want to go?

Councilor Barnes: I feel like we've entered the filibuster hour.

President Cantor: No.

Councilor Barnes: If we can get this to midnight then we don't have to vote on it. It's actually...it's surprising. In six years we very rarely find an issue that receives so much attention and deep thought at the table that gets both sides engaged in having such a polite discussion here at the table other than, well not budget night, but it's been great. It's just really interesting conversation. When I came in tonight I didn't think we'd elicit this much conversation about this topic but I think we have gone through a process and, you know, I think the goals are what we want to accomplish or basically to find. I agree that maybe the metrics of kind of evaluating that in the end may not be crystal clear, but I think it does come down to a, you know, quality of life issue in and around the Center and I think as Mr. Dodge said at the beginning, you know, we want to get cars to go into those spots and not go out and if that's the result, then we're going to have to, you know, address that issue as well because that's not solving the problem. It's just moving the problem into a different area. I am, you know, because it is a pilot and because we've spent a lot of time working on these issues I think it is something that I can support at least, you know, to have it go through the pilot to see if it's effective and see what impact it has in and around the Center. With that, I will end my filibuster.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Barnes. Mr. Wenograd, do you want to go?

Councilor Wenograd: Thank you Mayor. This actually, this whole issue is kind of personal to me. I grew up on Four Mile Road and grew up in the Center and actually I've told this story a lot of times about how I once got stopped by the police with a friend of mine because we were in the Center at 9:00 at night on a Friday and it was obvious that we were up to no good because there would be no other reason for anybody 18 years old to be in the Center at 9:00 on a Friday so we probably weren't into Edelweiss and when I first ran for election four years ago, I remember knocking on the door of somebody on Woodrow who was there to point out the cars and said please do something and make this one side of the street parking and I said oh that's an interesting idea and I'm like thrilled that now we're actually getting that and discussing. But one of the sort of worse things that happened to me after I got elected four years ago as we had, it was my committee, committee planning and we had a proposal for zoning change in the Center and we all looked at it and said this makes a lot of sense and we moved it on and we came to a Public Hearing and some of you in the room and quite a few more of you in the room gave us hell and it was actually quite, you know, a little bit like, you know, deer in the headlights look from some of us, speaking for myself certainly, and, you know, we promised that we would in fact slow down a little bit because the goal what we were trying to do there was vitally important to the future of West Hartford. We need to so smart development in the Center. I am proud of the zoning ended up passing and part of the reason we were able to pass and it took three tries to finally get it done was because of the really responsible way that your community reacted to it. It wasn't just a nimbi kind of reaction, it was how do we get involved. How do we jump in and

make this better and that was a great reaction and you came in and said let's like I said tonight we want this Center to succeed. We want business. We are here for a reason and that was quite a different reaction other parts of the country get for some zoning changes. I was really impressed and proud because I lived in the neighborhood of the reaction of the neighborhood to what could be a pretty scary idea. We then, you had your meetings and you trusted and we passed the zoning ordinance based in part with your support or at least not strong opposition because you were trusting that we would honor the system we had set up and now a few years later you're coming to us with results of that system and, you know, I think that's how it's supposed to work. You know? It's very, the transparency, the committee involvement, and then I think we then end up with enabling legislation in effect that we now enabling the manager to do in your neighborhood what is appropriate for your neighborhood we think, again we will try it out, but I think it is appropriate to give you the powers to then as other neighborhoods to through the same process if they make different decisions you'll have some leeway to do the same thing and I trust, it is a model. Not only a pilot program for parking, but also a model for how staff interacts with a neighborhood and that is just something that I think we should celebrate and endorse tonight. I am supporting this. In terms of the times, again, I think that between 10 or 11 or 12 again I think that goes within the discretion, not 10 but, you know. Certainly if it turns out like the metrics, you know, if it isn't working then you have that ability to move it, but again I think we should trust in that process of community involvement and we certainly, myself on council, that's what I expect for other neighborhoods that it won't be, you know, arbitrary decision making by our staff but is going to be that kind of involvement and if that's what happens, I think we will be in good shape. Just one other thing, in terms of the balance that we do between the businesses and the residents, I think that is vital and I know that nobody came to testify opposition. I haven't heard the opposition. I haven't gotten letters. I think that out there I think staff getting out there and Kristen going out and talking to people if it were that devastating I think, you know, we'd have heard it. We usually do hear from them so I'm hoping certainly that nobody was silent and at home simmering or is hearing about this for the first time and didn't come forward, but again I think we need to trust in that process. Thank you to the staff and the neighborhoods for its great collaborative process and let's hope it works. Thanks.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Wenograd.

Councilor Sweeney: Can we have a brief recess to check with Mr. Alair on an amendment that was ...

President Cantor: Sure. I'm going to have actually Mr. Davidoff start talking.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you Madam Mayor. So, since this sort of has something to do with zoning I guess I can have some sort of a discourse. Now seriously, in 2016 is when we started talking about this. It just illustrates how slow the wheels of government work, but it just shows this evening that it did work because we had a collaboration between town staff, various departments; Community Planning, Economic Development, Town Planner, Public Safety, Engineering, Public Works and our residents who were directly affected in the Center to try to find solutions that make sense and tonight we're talking about celebrating our success as a community and I don't think we should lose sight of that because if West Hartford Center was not a vibrant area, people may not choose to live there. We probably wouldn't have a parking problem. People wouldn't be working there. So, we should celebrate that success and what we're doing this evening is managing that success to protect the quality of life that our residents expect when they purchase a piece of property in that particular neighborhood. I have had the privilege of going on some police ride longs twice in that neighborhood at various hours and I

have seen excessive noise at that hour, I have seen behavior that is shameful and not worth reporting in the newspaper and it sort of puts a blemish on our community to see how some individuals take their independent liberty to just do as they please without any respect or regard for the personal property rights of others. Not all, but there are isolated cases that happens. This evening we're going to give the manager what I believe is a good plan as the traffic authority to tell people 11:00 at night is really, you know, in our vibrant Center not the time that you ought to be having a conversation out in our residential neighborhoods or get more towards our commercial district. Let's not have that type of behavior out there and I think that's good. I think that's a step in the right direction and as I have seen over the years and I have been on the Council, if we're not getting it right, we will fix it again and I think that's important because what I think this entire experience has taught us is that we are listening to our residents, we're doing our homework and researching for creative solutions. I think this is a very creative solution and it's forward thinking and it's not written in stone because nothing we do is written in stone and it can change because circumstances can change. So, I think my time is up and I think that Mr. Sweeney has spoken to Corporation Counsel Alair and got the other portion of his amendment ready, but I'll just end with this and that is I didn't think when I came here this evening that we would be spending almost an hour talking about this particular ordinance, but I'm glad we did because what it demonstrated is that there is a lot of thoughtful discussion and reasoning and common sense that goes into our deliberations no matter how small or how big the issue may be before the council. So for all those reasons, I will be supporting the ordinance this evening.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Davidoff. Mr. Sweeney, are you ready?

Councilor Sweeney: Sorry. I have two amendments I am going to have Mr. Alair read those first. It is of my opinion based on the outcome of the committee and the geographical area I think that we could accomplish this with this language. I will propose, just before I get into that, I just again the way this is written is a town-wide policy. It is not a pilot program and there is nothing designating it in any such way here outside of just language. So, that is where I'm coming from and the concern that this is a town-wide policy and I think that very seriously in regards to what Mr. Davidoff said and I completely take into the account of the neighbors' issues, I just want to make sure that we are doing the right thing for the entire town because what you guys have done only encapsulates the issue that you guys see and I want to make sure that from my perspective that we do this better out of town-wide. So, Mr. Alair if you could just read the amendment.

Mr. Alair: So, just to be clear where we are starting from. When we draft an ordinance, the general principle is that you do make it town-wide. You make it of general applicability because for the most part the principle is that our ordinances should apply equally to everybody. There are times, for example, in zoning ordinances where you deliberately divide the town into districts but within those districts wherever they're placed, the regulations are uniform and with that in mind we drafted the ordinance to be town-wide. What I heard from Mr. Sweeney tonight and started playing around with as he was talking is the idea of sort of standing that on its head and starting with this area and treating this in essence as a pilot and so what you have in front of you the amendment to subsection A1C of the ordinance, we would add at the beginning of that subsection "within the area bounded by the north side of Farmington Avenue, the east side of Raymond Road, the south side of Boulevard, and the west side of Woodrow Street, small p parking.." and then it goes on with the text that is there now so that it only applies within that

rectangle and that's a loose rectangle, but it covers the areas that seem to be bounded by the map that Mr. McGovern had submitted to you and that's the text of the first draft.

Councilor Sweeney: I offer the amendment on the resolution.

President Cantor: Okay, would someone like to second? I think...

(No one did a second)

Councilor Sweeney: Then it fails right? Is that right?

President Cantor: Yes. And I personally, well I actually want to go to vote. We can talk about it again once you have met with your...

Councilor: Thank you Madam Mayor. Sorry.

President Cantor: Sorry. Right. You had another amendment.

Councilor Sweeney: Yes. The other amendment is the provision for the case by case exemptions so...

Mr. Alair: Subsection D

Councilor Sweeney: Yeah, subsection D. The amendment would essentially strip out everything after maybe granted so it would read "the West Hartford Police Department shall establish a procedure by which case by case exemptions from the provision of subparagraphs B and C of this section may be granted", so basically not calling in ...there would be nothing in here that would allow for discretion. It would allow for you to call and you want it, you get it granted but we allow for the West Hartford Police to develop this procedure.

President Cantor: Can you just say where it ends again, I'm sorry. It ends at may be granted?

Councilor Sweeney: So subparagraphs B and C of this section may be granted and that would be it. You remove, you are basically removing ...

President Cantor: for the time period of three days and then...

Councilor Sweeney: And then you drop it down. Who, what, where...

President Cantor: And granted.

Councilor Sweeney: Yeah. I am offering the amendment.

Councilor Wenograd: I'll second.

President Cantor: Okay. I'll show you. Go ahead do what you like to talk about it.

Councilor Wenograd: Again, I second it so that we can have discussion. Your objection to the...so you are limiting the three day duration limit. Is that...

Councilor Sweeney: Yes and...

Councilor Wenograd: And the ...so you're expanding what exemptions could be made.

Councilor Sweeney: And the unavoidable circumstance issue..

Councilor Wenograd: Sorry. just eliminate that as a requirement that they do it. The police without discretion to set their own standard which may include ...so I guess my question is do you want ... some exemptions may be granted to the owners. Well, right know I would read the current may in the ordinance as being and "added only" right? So that like currently only exemptions may only be granted even if it doesn't say that I that's the way I would read it because it's giving permission to do so. As written, it can only be granted to owners or occupants who become available on unavoidable circumstances. That is how it's currently written. So you're pointing it out so they could expand...

Councilor Sweeney: Yes, so you could expand it to if you have a guest coming. You could call in and they could call in again of unavoidable, defining what unavoidable circumstances I think if we're going to go down this and to the point that Councilman Dodge gave, if you need to move your car into the street and you live there or you have a guest there you should be able to do that without receiving a ticket if you are, again, you're calling the police department to notify them that you are doing so.

Councilor Wenograd: I tend to agree that the place ought to be a little more liberal on this to the extent possible so if you pointed at this section perhaps making it more restrictive than even currently is done, I agree that we shouldn't make that more restrictive.

Councilor Sweeney: The language makes it less restrictive. My offer makes it less restrictive than what currently is proposed.

President Cantor: Mr. Dodge.

Councilor Dodge: Thank you Madam Mayor. I support the amendment. As I said, I don't think that the police should get into a question of whether the circumstances that you need to have a car in the street are avoidable or unavailable. Again, I can talk from personal experience where it was questioned one time and so I think basically if you're a resident in this town and you or somebody who is a guest in your home needs to park on the street for some reason you should be allowed to, so I view this as making a more permissive and I plan to support it. My only question is for I guess this is for Mr. Alair. Sub D here affects C, which is giving the Town Manager a new power or should it be the police department developing this procedure or should it be the Town Manager.

Mr. Alair: The police department is who you call if you want the omit under the current procedure and so when I originally...subsection D was originally the standalone ordinance and we added the parking west of the Center to something that I already drafted for that other purpose. It was simply intended to codify existing practice and maybe it would help given the debate that we've had, it might help to have a little bit of historical perspective if not hysterical but historical perspective. In the 1950s the police department implemented a regulation which procedurally they had the power to do under our charter and ordinances, banning parking between 2 am and 5 am. It was a public safety rationale that at 3 in the morning when a police office is patrolling the street any car or vehicle is now a suspicious vehicle and it has worked for all of these years. Sometime in the late 80s, just after I came here, somebody called up and was very angry that they had gotten a ticket and wanted to know what is the legal authority for this and I had to go find it because it is not published and that really became the issue. We amended the ordinances to make it an ordinance violation because people could not find it. It was a regulation on file with the Town Clerk, but not in our published ordinances so we created the ordinance saying no parking between 2 am and 5 am. From the 50s on, because it was a regulation of the police department, there was also an omit program that the police department implemented to waive its own regulation. That never got picked up and carried forward with the ordinance. Time passes, 2019, somebody, I think it was actually Assistant Chief McCue who raised with me could we incorporate the omit process into the ordinance since the 2 to 5 is in there, and that's how he got to this point. The idea was not to change the procedure. The idea was to make sure that the police department had an ordinance basis for saying that they could have the procedure that they have had since the 50s in one form or another. If the concern now is that the procedure that's in place is too restrictive because I tried to draft it to make it mirror what the procedure is now, then there is certainly no reason you can't do that. I would point out that the reason for the three days, if you call on the third day and say I need another three days

and I can vouch for this in personal experience, they will do it but they give you three days at a time so that cars don't get left on the street indefinitely. Your engine dies and now it's on the street indefinitely. That's the reason for that. As far as the unavoidable circumstances, it is open to debate.

Councilor Dodge: I hope that's the title of your first book. "A brief history of West Hartford Parking Ordinances". I have no problem with the three day restriction. I think it makes sense. I think obviously we don't want people parking on the street indefinitely. I think it's this other piece where, you know, what's unavoidable circumstances? I think that could be applied arbitrarily. I think in my experience it has. I support the amendment and my question about whether it's the Town Manger or the police department is probably a distinction without difference.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Dodge and Mr. Hart wanted to speak so I'm cutting you off.

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor, and that's the point I wanted to make because I heard the amendment and I didn't hear the three day limit on duration. I think having some limit would be important. I just took a complaint recently from a constituent about an out of state car that had been parked in front of their home for some period of time. The owner of the car or the driver had received a proper omit, but it again having some cap on duration would be important.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart and I am just procedurally this is...Mr. Barnes said would this apply town-wide and yes it would. This would not be restricted to this neighborhood that we are talking about, correct?

Mr. Alair: Correct. The omit process is town-wide too.

President Cantor: Right. So to substantially change it in a way would we then need to notice and would it require a separate public hearing? I mean, would...obviously if you were to take out the limit, it does change the duration. It does change the...

Councilor Sweeney: Madam Mayor, may I just withdraw the amendment and then reoffer another amendment that puts in the three days to accommodate the issues that the Town Manger has in here?

President Cantor: Thank you.

Councilor Sweeney: So it read as "the West Hartford Police Department has the power to establish procedure by which case by case exemptions from provisions in subparagraphs B and C of the subsection may be granted for periods up to three days in duration."

President Cantor: Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: Thank you Madam Mayor. I think...

Councilor Sweeney: Sorry. Sorry. Withdraw again. West Hartford Police and I'm just changing shall be empowered. Sorry you guys.

President Cantor: I don't follow him.

Councilor Sweeney: The West Hartford Police Department shall be empowered to establish the procedure by which case by case exemptions and provisions of subparagraphs B and C of this subsection may be granted for periods up to three days in duration. It removes the basically the last part.

President Cantor: Well, it does...

Councilor Wenograd: Why shall instead of the is hereby?

Councilor Sweeney: Is hereby. Sure, it's I may just change that...I just wrote it off the top of my head. I offer the amendment. Thank you Madam Mayor.

President Cantor: Is there a second?

Councilor Wenograd: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. Can I speak to it for a second? So, I do, I am, it's a little unexpected that we would spend all of our time on this but I do think this is something that we need to talk more about, but not in this and I think we would need to notice it and this is a policy change that impacts our whole community. I actually like the language, all of it, because it does give the police some discretion but I would say rather than result in unavoidable circumstances the only amendment I would make is as a result of independent circumstances, individual sorry not independent, individual circumstances.

Councilor Sweeney: I would withdraw my amendment to take your amendment to this.

President Cantor: Okay. Is there I don't know what's going on with...is there a second? Motion has been made and seconded. Is there so the amendment is on the table, can we vote on that amendment? Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: I would just say I would defer to corporation council on this, but I think when we use words in statute or ordinance we just have to be careful. I don't know what independent means versus unavoidable or individual so I think you're right, the second part of this paragraph is very important because otherwise the police department doesn't have any discretion to enforce an exemption and an exemption without the ability to use means that the rule is .. so I think we might want to if this is an issue that the Town Council is concerned about I think we need to look at this particular language more in committee or what have you.

President Cantor: And I said that and then I actually moved that on. I do agree. I think this is something we need to look at separately and it's going to be a discussion that we are going to have to amend this ordinance after we fully evaluate the 2 to 5 because I think there's significant interest at the table to look at that again. I am not happy with the language. I agree that it is not unavoidable. I will say that the police, but I don't think at this table at this time without discussing this particular policy we're ready to make an amendment.

Councilor Sweeney: On that note and I will put a button on this I swear, if we aren't going to say that we can't make changes here today, I just find that to be kind of counterintuitive to what we were talking about in general. We were making, I have made requests of staff in this process of which we are not provided to via email and then we had this on the agenda of which I am dealing with it in the same way that everyone else is and to that is where it is today, but we are here because there is communication that was formally made in a public hearing of which I did not hear anything back on. We could have solved this prior to this had we had that communication provided to me or to anyone that was at the public safety meeting and it was not. I'm just saying if we are talking about making decisions today because we're being rushed or we don't want to be rushed, I would just encourage folks when those requests are made by councilors at public hearings or committee meetings that they be followed up with.

President Cantor: So how about offering this? That we vote on this resolution and we also refer a portion of it back to committee, if that could be done, to review this section in committee.

Mr. Alair So procedurally, if I'm following this, we're going to vote or you're going to vote on the ordinance amended and then you would suspend the rules, have a separate resolution to refer subsection A1D back to committee for further discussion.

President Cantor: Yes. Mr. Barnes.

Councilor Barnes: Or alternatively is it possible just to pull it back to get back into committee, address whatever issues have been raised around this table, and come back with a new amendment and have a vote on that amendment as opposed to taking it piece mail.

President Cantor: I thought about that and we are rushing towards a change potentially in council and I am afraid that it would set us back for changes that have been in process for two years and I am just a little concerned about that process because of the notice of the public hearing and the public hearing and that would be my concern, so I think this could accomplish both.

Councilor Barnes: So that concern would be delay, but procedurally would there be anything that would prevent us from doing that basically tabling this and bringing it back?

Mr. Alair: I am not sure well, let me think about it. Procedurally, you could continue the public hearing and table the item or you could close the public hearing and vote down the item without prejudice as to bringing it back as a new ordinance, either of those processes yes you could do. I think the Mayor asked a question earlier about would some of these amendments be substantive enough and what she's getting at is there is a charter requirement that basically says if you make a substantive amendment during the hearing process as you are debating tonight, if that well my ruling was substantive, you would be required to re-notice and republish for a new hearing anyway. So, procedurally, it might not make, depending on the amendments that were being offered, it might not make a difference timing wise because of the same problem that the Mayor is raising about the new council coming in would probably mean that you're looking at a new hearing sometime in December anyway. I think what we may see happen in that interim is if you don't adopt the ordinance tonight, the Town Manager can't implement the signage until you do and we're heading into the holiday season and it may be an issue for parking between now and Christmas if we don't have another hearing until December.

President Cantor: Okay. Mr. Wenograd. Up, Mr. Dodge first.

Councilor Dodge: I guess it's sort of a two-part question. To Mr. Alair, if we were to simply strike the so that we could deal with it separately at some future date, would we be able to act on the rest of the amendment or on the rest of the ordinance tonight and would that affect the police department's current ability to offer omits?

Mr. Alair: Yes, you could strike D and I would rule that is not substantive because it's within the scope of if you had voted the ordinance out. So, yes, you could strike D. How it will affect the police department issuing omits, I honestly don't know. I haven't talked to anybody in the department since I first drafted this several months back. I would imagine that they will continue doing what they're doing now.

Councilor Dodge: They are doing it now without the language so I guess Madam Mayor if you were amenable to it, I would offer an amendment to simply strike D, refer it back to committee, and then we can vote on the ordinance.

President Cantor: It accomplishes the same thing and I am absolutely fine with that. So, if that amendment's on the table?

Councilor Dodge: So moved.

Councilor Wenograd: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor, we can do not a roll call, for the amendment.

Councilor Dodge: So the amendment is to strike section D.

President Cantor: All those in favor? Up, we have a question.

Councilor Barnes: I am sorry. I just want to make sure I understand the result of that. So, we're saying because it's currently not in an ordinance they are going to continue to do what they're doing. We strike D, take it back to committee, and discuss however to address this and then provide an amendment at a future date, whatever it is, right? But we're not changing the practice town-wide, they're going to continue to do what they are doing? Because I think it's important enough issue to warrant further discussion before in this context making this important decision as part of this discussion. Right, so we're all on the same page.

Councilor Dodge: And I completely agree with you Mr. Barnes. I think that's why it makes sense to take it out tonight and it goes back to our discussion of this is a big deal, it's a town-wide policy. I think if we're going to work with the omit system that actually does merit some further discussion. I think frankly it's a separate issue from what folks are now hearing until 9:15 or it to night and so I think, you know, let's separate it out and we can look at it in the future.

President Cantor: Okay, all set? Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye

President Cantor: Those opposed? (None) Motion carries. So now we will have this amended. Do you have another comment? Okay. Alright. I think we left off with Ms. Kerrigan's comments on the rest of the remainder of the ordinance.

Councilor Kerrigan: Why are we here? Wow. Just add another year onto your process. I am supporting this parking ordinance which I kind of laugh because it is not about parking at all. If it was about parking I don't think you would be here. It is about the quality of life as all councilors have reference. It's about you living in a neighborhood that used to close at 10 and it sounds like it's open at 10 and going on until 1/2:00 in the morning. So now your front yard is kind of like being in a college dorm on a Friday night so I appreciate your patience with this. I am not too sure I would be quite as patient as you have been. So, it's really not about parking. It's about quality of life. I want to thank the staff, Mark McGovern, Kristen Gorski, Todd Dumais. That's quite an amount of time you've invested in energy in making sure that everybody gets what they need and want, which is really difficult. The police that were involved and everyone else, thanks for that, and I do want to ...hear it is, Councilor Dodge I am so sorry that you are leaving, not for that moment but, you know, you're not running again, because I do agree that our town needs to look at this 2 to 5 window because I live on Arnoldale Road and when there's four people living in a house with one driveway and everyone has their own little

shifts, I am always parking on the street one time or another and it is a burden quite frankly to have 2 to 5 and I am not suggesting that in your neighborhood because we're not exposing ourselves to the partying that you folks have so thank you for patience and I'll be supporting this.

President Cantor: Thank you Ms. Kerrigan. Any other comments on that? Okay, so first I want to thank Todd, who is still upstairs and probably will be for a while, Mark, and Kristen for their incredible work on this. This has been a real commitment. Thank you to the neighbors and the whole group of you and I hope you pass on our thanks because we did start this a while ago, 2016, and we understood that we had priorities, but we also need to make sure that our vibrant West Hartford Center that often defines West Hartford outside of West Hartford not inside West Hartford, but we treasure it and we want to preserve it and it won't work if the neighborhood around it is not happy and it's this battle so you took a step back and allowed us to keep moving forward a little bit with our vision on the professional development of the center and we have more work to do on that. While you continue to meet and talk about the priority and the quality of life and I completely agree with the Deputy Mayor that it's not about parking. This is really a quality of life issue, although parking is the vehicle, pun intended, to, you know, to allow you a change in the quality of life but we are really in tune with the businesses and how this will impact our businesses. I do think that with the parking inventory that we have and we can be flexible, we have done a lot of outreach and Kristen especially has done outreach to try to work with businesses and how we can keep viability and affordability for workers and convenience. So, I really I am happy to be at this place and that's why I really didn't want to extend this further because I feel like you've waited a long time for this night to happen. It's not in stone and this may be changing over time so I really think we are in the right place. This is an example of how West Hartford works, it might be slow but we think it's right. We have, again to preserve the success of the center with the balance with our whole community's quality of life and safety. So, this is a unique neighborhood. I don't think your story applies in many places throughout the town, maybe in a couple of other spots, but not a lot. I trust that the Town Manager and town staff will take all of these changes extremely seriously. We do trust in that. We know the outreach that on the commitment that they have made already and will continue to do so. With that, I will be supporting this amended ordinance. Alright. Can we do a roll call on this Ms. Labrot? We have to make a motion for the amended ordinance.

Councilor Wenograd: Motion to approve the ordinance as amended.

President Cantor: Motion to approve the ordinance as amended.

Councilor Kerrigan: Seconded.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Fay, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd and Williams voted YES

President Cantor: Thank you for your patience. Thank year old for...really, thank you very much. All of you that have endured this. Okay, where are we. Item B.

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move adoption of an ordinance adopting a revision and recodification of the code of the Town of West Hartford, Connecticut providing for code amendments and repeal of certain obsolete and conflicting ordinances.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Hart, can you do a very brief explanation of this?

Mr. Hart: This is, as was explained in the public hearing, this is something that is statutorily required every 10 years. We are a little bit behind, but we are looking to accomplish this.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart. This is an ordinance, so we have to take a roll call.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Fay, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd, and Williams voted YES

President Cantor: It's unanimous. Wonderful. We're on a roll, 5C.

Councilor Kerrigan: I move for adoption of an ordinance establishing a West Hartford Prevention Council.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Hart, a brief explanation.

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor. As was explained during the public hearing earlier tonight, we have an ordinance on the books that dates back to 1989. It is in need of an update in order to streamline things, reduce the number of member to make it more consistent with today's needs so we're seeking your support on this ordinance as well.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart. Okay. Roll call Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Fay, Kerrigan, Sweeney, Wenograd and Williams voted YES.

President Cantor: I just want to also say a quick thank you to Helen Rubino-Turco for her focus on this and this is a very, very important service that this council provides. Okay, 5D

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move for adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of an easement in favor of Gastro Park Holdings, LLC.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded and we did just receive the unanimous vote from TPZ so we are, that is decided and it is part of the record and all those in favor? Oh, Mr. Hart, would you like to explain it?

Mr. Hart: I would be happy to. Council will recall earlier last month the TPZ approved the applicants Gastro Park Holdings, LLC application for special use permit. It was conditioned on a couple of things. One of them being obtaining an easement to locate a sanitary sewer line through three different properties, one of them owned by the town. So, you referred this, as you had to do, to TPZ for review and they have come back with a favorable report.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart. It is hot off the press. They just did that tonight. Okay, all those in favor?

All: AY

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. Congratulations. And then, 6A. Ms. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move we set for public hearing on November 12, 2019, at 7 pm in the Legislative Chamber to TPZ, DRAC, and CRCOG an application filed

on behalf of Newington Westfarms TMC, LLC owner of 1553-1559 New Britain Avenue, special development district #103. The requested amendment is for architectural modifications of the façade and existing pylon sign and for the removal of certain prior SDD conditions of approval regarding use restrictions, associated landscaping improvements are proposed.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: AYE

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries; 6B Ms. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move we set for public hearing on November 12, 2019, at 7:20 in the Legislative Chamber and refer to TPZ a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute a lease with the Universalist Church.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. Item 6C.

Councilor Kerrigan: Thank you Madam Mayor. I move we adopt a resolution establishing an annual salary range for certain unclassified positions.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Hart?

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor. We reviewed this item with the Finance and Budget Committee last week. Council will recall that you authorized the establishment of three part-time positions for this fiscal year, two of the three did not have an assigned pay range so we are seeking approval to establish a pay range for those two positions. It's an emergency management position as well as a recycling coordinator position. The salary ranges that we're proposing are based upon an internal comparison as well as a comparison against external salary data positions in place in other towns and if approved we would be able to operate within the approved budget with both of these proposals and we're seeking your support.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart. Mr. Barnes.

Councilor Barnes: I just want it consistent with my no vote on the budget and opposing the addition of new positions. I am going to vote no and instead of voting I just wanted to put it on record why I am voting no.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Barnes. Alright. All those in favor?

Councilors Cantor, Davidoff, Dodge, Kerrigan, Sweeney, and Wenograd voted: Aye.

President Cantor: All those opposed?

Councilors Barnes, Fay and Williams voted: Nay.

President Cantor: Motion carries. Alright, 6B, that was 6C and I think we are at Reports from Town Manager. Mr. Hart.

Mr. Hart: Thank you Mayor. I know the hour is late. My report is loaded in Board Docs, I would encourage you to read it at your leisure. Two quick points I want to make; the American

Legion was considering holding a Firefighter of the Year event this week. I noted this does conflict with an important religious holiday so that celebration that award ceremony will be scheduled to a later date. You may have received an email on this within a day or two so please disregard. It's not happening this week. We will be following up. They will be scheduling it for later this fall. Secondly, I will miss your next meeting. I will be at my national conference for ICMA and I will provide the Finance and Budget Committee on a report regarding my attendance at its next meeting.

President Cantor: Thank you Mr. Hart. Announcements. I have a few. Cast your vote for best of West Hartford. This will take place on Monday, November 4 at Flemings and I think the voting ends this week so make sure you go to we-ha.com and you cast your vote. WHPS, West Hartford Public Schools is seeking mentors. Think of mentoring, things that changed your life. Become a mentor and change a life. The 101 Workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 5-6:30 at Connor High School's Reach Program located behind the high school in a separate building. You can make a difference. Carol Wilkes at 860-231-6009. Our 10-Minute Walk Day, you heard a proclamation. It will be 10-10 at 10 and we will be joined by I don't know whatever. It will be great. Later at 1 pm join with the West Hartford Senior Fitness Center. Supervisor Katherine who will lead a walk to Westmoor Park. Autumn Flea Market will be held by Elmwood Community Center on Saturday, October 10 from 9-2. A Shayna Maidel is playing at Playhouse on Park from October 30-November 17th. It is a powerful drama about survival and years after separation brought on by the holocaust. It's a wonderful show, I've seen it. Momma Mia by West Hartford Community Theatre, the popular jukebox musical based on songs of ABBA will be performed at Hall High School on November 15, 16, and 22 and 23 at 7:30 and November 17 and 24 at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at their website. Any other announcements?

Councilor Davidoff: Madam Mayor, I want to remind you for those who celebrate in the Jewish faith I wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year and may your fast be easy in the days coming ahead and I know the Mayor shares those sentiments.

President Cantor: I do. I wish everyone a happy, sweet, peaceful New Year and I actually went to the Nepalese New Year festival last night and I wish also happy Dashon of Nepalese Day. And, reports from corporation council, Mr. Alair.

Mr. Alair: I would like to start by announcing my powerful trilogy of books upcoming, the first of which is going to be "Alair on Critters", the second of which is going to be "A Brief History of Parking Regulations in West Hartford", and the third is going to be entitled "No, Quorum Does Not Mean a Majority of Those Present and Voting" and by the way think about that one for a second. That's a real definition that was in a regulation once.

President Cantor: Fascinating.

Mr. Alair: Yes, we do need an executive session to discuss two matters of pending litigation for the media in the room we will not be doing a vote afterwards. I am not going to be asking for a vote.

President Cantor: Okay. Motion to...I make a motion to go into Executive Session.

Councilor Kerrigan: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

President Cantor: All opposed? Okay. We are out of Executive Session. No reports from Standing Committees. No communications, no consent calendar. Oh no, we are already...where's appointments? Oh here. I'm sorry. Appointments were supposed to be before Executive Session. I apologize for that. Okay. I make a motion to appoint Ben Grippo, appointed for a term ending 12-30-2020; Jean Schensul, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2020. This is all for the West Hartford Prevention Council. Nordia Napier, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2020; Carl Shields, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2021; Jonathan Merritt, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2021; Brenda McKeown, appointed for a term 12-31-2021; Howard Dashefsky, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2022; Kadzo Kangwana, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2022; and Heather Alix, appointed for a term ending 12-31-2022.

Councilor Kerrigan: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries and I think I make a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Kerrigan: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. Good night.

Adjourned

/cv